

## Headquarters, Divisional Royal Engineers

The principle functions of the Divisional Royal Engineers were bridging, demolitions, creation and clearance of obstacles or roadblocks, concrete and semi-permanent defences, development and maintenance of water supplies, and disposal of unexploded bombs.

A Lieutenant Colonel was appointed as Commander, Royal Engineers (C.R.E.) to command and control all the Royal Engineer assets and units within that division. In addition, he acted as the engineer adviser to the divisional commander. Under his command, usually he had three field companies and one field park company (known as squadrons in armoured formations). Often, a field company would work alongside a specific brigade, thereby increasing understanding and cooperation between the Arms. The field park company provided a workshop, stores and bridging platoon for the division, but in June 1943, the bridging platoons became independent of the field park company, although still within the command structure of the C.R.E..

For the latter part of the Second World War, the personnel, structure and organisation of a Headquarters, Divisional Engineers was set by War Establishment II/118/2, issued in December 1943.

The field company was the standard unit of the Royal Engineers within any infantry division during the Second World War, with its equivalent in an armoured division being a field squadron. This unit provided the sappers required for a designated task, with the field park company (and later the bridging platoon) providing additional and specialised equipment.

## Personnel

- Commander Royal Engineers, Lieutenant Colonel;
- Adjutant, Captain;
- 3 x Subalterns;
- Regimental Serjeant Major;
- Serjeant Clerk;
- 2 x Lance Corporals;
- 6 x Sappers;
- 1 x Corporal Driver;
- 13 x Drivers.

Total = 28

## Personnel by Trades

- 2 x Clerks;
- Draughtsman, Architectural;
- Draughtsman, Topographical;
- Driver Mechanic;
- Lance Corporal Medical Officer's Orderly;
- 3 x Motorcyclists;
- 4 x Batmen;
- Batman Driver;
- 4 x Drivers of vehicles;
- Motor Transport Corporal;
- Sanitary Dutyman.

## Attached

- Medical Officer, R.A.M.C.;
- 2 x Cooks, A.C.C.

In addition, personnel from the Divisional Signals are attached together with the relevant personnel. In an Armoured Division, an Armoured Command Vehicle LP is provided; whereas in an Infantry Division a Lorry Command Vehicle LP is provided. The following personnel from the Royal Corps of Signals served with this unit:

- Corporal Operator;
- Operator;
- Driver Mechanic.

A lance corporal operator and a Wireless set No 22 are provided for the C.R.Es.

### Vehicles

- 1 x Bicycle;
- 4 x Motorcycles;
- 1 x Car 4 seater 4 X 4 (Humber FWD Heavy Utility);
- 1 x Car 5 cwt 4 X 4 (Jeep);
- 1 x Light Reconnaissance Car, Humber MkIII;
- 1 x 15 cwt G.S.;
- 1 x 3ton 4 x 4 G.S. for unit equipment;
- 1 x 3ton 4 x 4 G.S. for use as Office;
- 1 x Trailer 1 ton G.S.